

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS ENRG US CA

SUBJ ENERGY: PROSPECTIVE U.S./CANADA BILATERAL MEETING

1. DURING MEETING WITH ECON COUNSELOR FEBRUARY 21, DEPUTY MINISTER ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES SHOYAMA COMMENTED THAT HE FAVORED MORE FREQUENT INFORMAL GET-TOGETHERS OF U.S. AND CANADIAN OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS MUTUAL PROBLEMS. WHEN ECON COUNSELOR NOTED THAT U.S. OFFICIALS HAD HOPED ABORTIVE FEBRUARY 10 MEETING WOULD HAVE PROVIDED JUST SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY AND THEREFORE HAD BEEN ANNOYED AT LAST-MINUTE CANCELLATION, SHOYAMA SAID HE PERSONALLY REGRETTED CANCELLATION AND HOPED THAT RESCHEDULED MEETING PROPOSED FOR MARCH 18 EVEN THOUGH "MORE PLANNED" WOULD NEVERTHELESS STILL RESULT IN GIVE-AND-TAKE BETWEEN OFFICIALS WHO WERE NOT "LOCKED IN" TO RIGID POSITIONS.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION RE WHAT MIGHT BE DISCUSSED AT UPCOMING MEETING, SHOYAMA SAID IN ADDITION TO SOME SHORT-RUN ENERGY SUPPLY PROBLEMS HE PERSONALLY WOULD SEE MERIT IN CONSIDERATION SOME LONGER TERM
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ISSUES, IN PARTICULAR: (A) OIL SHIFTING -- IT SEEMS

TO MAKE GOOD SENSE IN PRINCIPLE, HE SAID, TO SEEK TO USE EXISTING NORTH AMERICAN PIPELINE FACILITIES IN MOST EFFECTIVE AND ECONOMIC WAY; AND (B) DEVELOPMENT OF PORT FACILITIES ON EAST COAST TO SERVE NEW ENGLAND AND EASTERN CANADA AND OF NEW EAST-TO-WEST PIPELINE THAT WOULD PERMIT OIL TO BE PIPED TO CANADIAN CONSUMERS OTHER THAN THROUGH PORTLAND PIPELINE. SHOYAMA SAID HE ALSO HOPED THERE WOULD BE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE U.S. THINKING RE CERTAIN IEA ISSUES, ESPECIALLY FLOOR PRICE CONCEPT AND COOPERATION IN ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT. SHOYAMA INDICATED HE WAS GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC TO BOTH IDEAS. ON FLOOR PRICE CONCEPT, HE SAID THERE IS "BROAD MEASURE OF SUPPORT" FOR CONCEPT IN GOC (HE INITIALLY SAID THERE IS "CONSENSUS" BUT THEN CORRECTED HIMSELF), SINCE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT CANADIAN RESOURCES LIKELY TO BE RELATIVELY HIGH COST. ACCEPTANCE OF CONCEPT IS EASIER, HE NOTED, THAN TASK OF DEVELOPING SPECIFIC NUMBERS AND TECHNIQUES.

3. SHOYAMA, WHO WILL MOVE TO FINANCE DEPARTMENT AS DEPUTY MINISTER AT END OF MARCH, SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER HE WOULD BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN MARCH 18 MEETING BUT HOPED TO DO SO, ESPECIALLY SINCE HE WOULD BE DEALING WITH SOME OF SAME ISSUES IN HIS NEW PORTFOLIO.
PORTER

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